

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03

ACDA-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06

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APPROVED BY EUR/RPM:GBHELMAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

INFO USCINCLANT PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

USLOSACLANT PRIORITY

USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 204657

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MNUC, NATO

SUBJECT: NPG - FRG VIEWS ON NPG MINISTERIAL

REF: US NATO 4343

1. YOU SHOULD INFORM THE GERMAN DELEGATION THAT WE ARE SYMPATHETIC TO ITS EXPLORING THE IDEA OF SETTING ASIDE PART OF NPG MINISTERIAL MEETINGS FOR "FREE DISCUSSION" OF ANY SUBJECTS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO MINISTERS. YOU SHOULD ENCOURAGE THE GERMANS TO DISCUSS THE SUBJECT WITH A FEW OTHER NPG DELEGATIONS WHO COULD PROVIDE OTHER REACTIONS TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT IN THE EVENT THEY DECIDE TO DEVELOP THEIR VIEWS INTO A FORMAL PROPOSAL. YOU SHOULD ALSO PROVIDE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS TO THE GERMAN

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DELEGATION.

2. WE NOTE THAT DISCUSSION FOLLOWING SECDEF'S STRATEGIC BRIEFINGS AT NPG MINISTERIALS HAVE FREQUENTLY BEEN WIDE-RANGING; ONE MEANS OF ACCOMMODATING THE GERMAN SUGGESTION MIGHT BE TO ENCOURAGE SUCH DISCUSSIONS BY SUGGESTING THAT INDIVIDUAL MINISTERS RAISE SUBJECTS OF PARTICULAR CONCERN TO THEM.

3. IF FRG FEELS THAT SPECIFIC IDENTIFICATION OF DISCUSSION PERIOD ON AGENDA IS DESIRABLE, WE WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION. IN THIS CONNECTION, IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO RECALL TO GERMANS THE CANADIAN SUGGESTION PRIOR TO BERGEN NPG MEETING THAT COUNTRIES HOSTING NPG MEETINGS SHOULD OFFER VIEWS ON NUCLEAR ISSUES FROM THEIR OWN PARTICULAR VANTAGE POINT. AT BERGEN, MOD FOSTERVOLL PRESENTED A PAPER ON NORWAY'S NUCLEAR AND BASE POLICY AND AT THAT TIME IT WAS EXPECTED THAT THIS MIGHT BECOME A REGULAR NPG FEATURE. EVEN IF CANADIAN PROPOSAL IS NOT WHAT GERMANS HAVE IN MIND, IT OCCURS TO US THAT ANY FREE DISCUSSION AT NPG MINISTERIALS WOULD BE MORE VALUABLE, AND A MORE USEFUL GIVE AND TAKE WOULD BE PROMOTED, IF TOPICS WERE ANNOUNCED IN ADVANCE, AND A DISCUSSION LEADER IDENTIFIED. SUCH PRIOR PREPARATION WOULD SERVE TO AVOID DIFFUSE DISCUSSIONS HAVING NOTHING TO DO WITH NATO NUCLEAR POLICY.

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